

would screen off the south-westerly gales, and cause the shingles in their tangential passage round the pier so extended to go in the direction of Hope Point, and that a breakwater refuge for shipping would be thereby effected in storms. By such a work one side of a refuge harbour would be provided. The only objection started to the extension of this pier has been the difficulties of getting vessels to sea with the winds from the southward and eastward. The question at issue is that of getting vessels into the harbour, not out to sea.

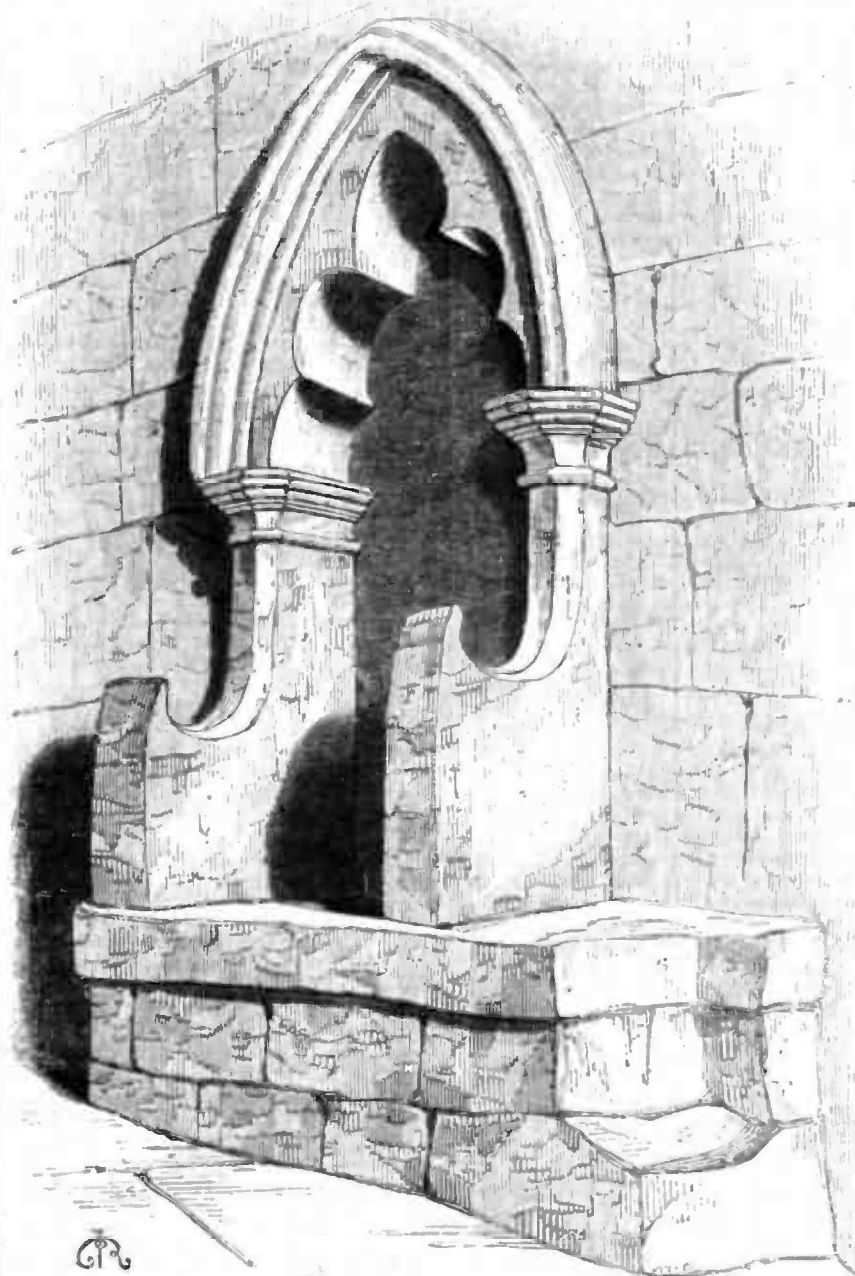
It is suggested, as a preliminary to any works in front of the harbour, that soundings at equal distances from the coast, in the fronts of the harbour and parade, in the direction of fixed lines, marked out by stationary posts, set out by certain bearings of the compass on the shore, to the extent of eight fathoms water, should be taken at various times of winds, tides, and seasons, and registered on blank maps prepared with the compass, bearing lines, and points of distance drawn on them; by which proceeding it is thought that some knowledge might be obtained of what should be done, and much expense in speculative projects avoided. Sketches of such blank maps, with the compass direction of the lines, would be acceptable. If such maps, containing the soundings taken in the manner before mentioned, were seasonably, and tidably, with the various winds, published, they would be as useful maritimately, as with reference to the works necessary to remedy the defects of the entrance to this harbour.—*Correspondent of the Dover Chronicle.*

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.

THIS ancient fortress is about to undergo extensive alterations and improvements. A new grand entrance will be made facing Upper Thames-street, and will be approached by a drawbridge. The Warders'-hall, now fronting the Stone-kitchen, is to be destroyed, and a new one to be erected, which, together with the ticket-office and guard-room, will form the buildings at the grand entrance. The two archways almost at the extreme eastern end of the fortress, leading to what is termed the Irish barracks at the south-east angle, are to be removed. The entire row of buildings on the opposite side of the way is also to be demolished, and the whole space of the rampart wall will be cleared away. The houses fronting the barracks in a line with the King's Arms public-house, about forty in number, are to share a similar fate. The alterations intended immediately adjacent to the grand parade are equally extensive. The houses on the right, after passing under the Bloody Tower to the parade, now the residence of some of the warders, will be destroyed, also the guard-room; all the buildings contiguous to the White Tower are to be swept away, so as to throw that interesting and stately structure open to the view of the spectator, many of its beauties being hidden by the unsightly buildings that are attached to it. On the ruins of the grand store-house is to be erected a magnificent building for the accommodation of 800 soldiers, the style of which is to be in strict keeping with the White Tower. Extensive excavations are now going on in order to secure a good foundation, for which purpose the whole of the burial-ground attached to St. Peter's ad Vincula has been devoted, the bodies therein having been removed and deposited in a spacious vault. Some of the buildings to the west of the parade are to be pulled down to make room for more substantial erections. The houses on the terrace, known as the Map-office, are to be used as officers' residences, the roofs of which will be made to correspond with the White Tower and the intended new barracks. The Beauchamp Tower, which stands on the west side of the parade, will be thrown open to public view, and when the records are removed to the New Houses of Parliament, the White Tower will be open for public inspection.

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, HEREFORD.—A prospect exists of the speedy completion of this edifice under the superintendence of Mr. Jearrad, the architect. A committee has been formed, a subscription entered into, and the consecration will probably take place early in the ensuing spring.

STONE CONFESSIONAL CHAIR, LENHAM CHURCH, KENT.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW.

(From a Drawing by C. J. Richardson, Esq., F.S.A.)

STONE CONFESSIONAL CHAIR, LENHAM CHURCH, KENT.

THE above relic of very ancient days is worthy the pencil of a Catermole; it can hardly be looked upon for an instant without suggesting the dark figure of a monk reposing in the seat, and listening to a kneeling penitent beside him. These stone confessional chairs are very uncommon. As this is a complete example with the kneeling stone and elbow ledge by the side of the seat, we give, besides the view, a plan, elevation, and section of it. The date is probably early in the 13th century. It is very nearly perfect, and stands against the south side of the chancel, at Lenham Church, near Maidstone, in Kent. At the west end of the chancel, which is a very large one, are sixteen stalls, which were formerly appropriated to the monks of St. Austin when they visited their estate in this parish.

An interesting controversy took place a few years since between the Rev. Samuel Denne and David Wells, Esq., on the subject of stone seats in the chancels of churches. Mr. Wells' paper was published in the 3rd volume of the "Vetusta Monumenta" of the Society of Antiquaries, while that of his opponent appeared in the 10th volume of the "Archæologia."

Mr. Wells entertained the opinion that the stone seats now occasionally to be found in chancels were originally intended for the officiating priest to rest himself on during the performance of his sacred duties; his words are, "such seats are only to be found in the chancel choir, of some distinguished chapel where only the sacramental rites could be performed with great solemnity, and they are invariably placed in the south wall; whence it is clear that these stone seats were originally designed for the officiating priest." And further on he says, "The number of these stone seats varied according to the dignity of the place: in small rectories one, in others two; some have three, &c."

One of the general rubrics of the Roman missal is, that when the celebrant is allowed to rest himself, he shall be seated a CORNU EPISTOLÆ JUNTA ALTARE, i. e. near the altar, and at the south horn of it.

Picart, in his "Religious Ceremonies," refers to a rule in the Roman Catholic Church, which directs that "The confessor must hear the confession in the church at that part of it which is furthest from the high altar, i. e. at the bottom of the nave, which is most exposed to the view of the people."